

THE MOCKINGBIRD



Volume XXXIV, Number 11
November 2006

172nd Airlift Wing "Wings of the Deep South" Jackson, MS

Family Day Celebration





THE

MOCKINGBIRD

Family Day Article 2-3

Family Day Photos 4-5

Sexual Assault Facts 6-7

Airlift Uplift 8

The Mockingbird is a publication of the 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson, MS, Wing Commander: Col William O. Hill; Editorial Staff: Lt Col David Buck, Editor, 2Lt Stephen Huwe, Asst. Editor, MSgt David Longmire, Asst. Editor, MSgt Andy Miller, Asst. Editor, and SrA Jeffery Gibson, Asst. Editor. This publication is an Air Force funded newsletter and is an authorized publication of the U.S. Military Services. The Contents are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, or the Adjutant General, State of Mississippi. Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 172nd Airlift Wing.

NOTE: Submit Articles to: The Editor, 172nd Airlift Wing/Public Affairs, 141 Military Drive, Jackson, MS, 39232-8881, or via email to:

publicaffairs@msjack.ang.af.mil

All information for submission **MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS SATURDAY** of each drill weekend to be included in the next issue! Articles should be in Microsoft Word DOC format and should be limited to one double-spaced page. Photos and graphics must be furnished separately in high resolution JPG or TIFF formats or as a hard copy.

CIRCULATION: 1,600



Family Day Activities Fun For All

By SRA Jeff Gibson

A warm, picture-perfect day at Thompson Field was the setting for this year's 172nd Airlift Wing Family Day. Activities for the fun event attended by several hundred airmen and family members included a huge inflatable slide, a moon jump, a horse ride, at train ride, a funny clown, face painters, volunteers, and lots of smiling faces. The Hinds county 4-H club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were also present as the unit celebrated its Family Day activities on Sunday, October 15. Marianne Breland, coordinator of Family Readiness and Support Services, organized the annual event.

"Today was a perfect day and an excellent opportunity for the families of those traditional guardsmen to experience what our family members have to do when they report for their weekend obligations. These kind of activities really allow the families at home to share the experiences of our loved ones, and we get the chance to fellowship with other families and have lots of fun at the same time," said Carisa Hill, wife of TSgt Marcus Hill.

Accompanying TSgt Hill's family as a guest of TSgt Marvin Williams, was Angela D. Robinson, who said, "The unit's planners picked the perfect day for such a wonderful event. The weather is absolutely great, and when I see all of the children's excitement, the fun, the games, and the opportunity to see the C-17 cargo airplanes, it's really easy to understand the necessity of such experiences for the families as a whole, but the children especially."

"This is truly an amazing event, I have come out to it every year for the past four years, and it seems to get better and better every year. The weather is beautiful and I get to see just what military responsibilities my wife does when she's called away for duty weekends. It makes very proud of her and her choice to make such a commitment to our country," said Jeff West, husband of SSgt Danielle West.

Also out enjoying the festivities was nine year-old Carley Burns, daughter of TSgt Shaun Burns. She said, "I had a really good time today. It was fun. I liked every thing a lot, but I loved the

ON THE COVER

Col. William Hill, 172nd Commander, presents Operation Hero medallions to children of 172nd airmen during Family Day activities, Oct 15, 2006.

Photo By MSgt Andy Miller

airplanes and slides the most.” Carley’s birthday was October 7.

“Family Day has traditionally been an extremely successful event, I remember bringing our children years ago when they were young, and they always had a great time.

The food was always good, the booths were always very enjoyable, and the atmosphere was always positive. I think it’s an important event. It gives everyone in the family the chance to see what it is that daddy does when he leaves on the weekends. I believe it’s an important event to continue and to expand upon, it’s a military sponsored activity that increases and supports family involvement,” added Connie Williams, wife of TSgt Jerry Williams.

“Events like these allow us as county 4-H agents to show case our commitment to our programs that are designed just for the children of our nation’s servicemembers. Our state 4-H offers numerous opportunities for youth development. It also allows for us to be able to work in conjunction with the 172nd Airlift Wing on events like this. This is a huge plus and speaks volumes about our mutual commitment to the communities where our troops live,” said Rocheryl Ware, Hinds county 4-H agent.

“I felt family day was a tremendous success. We had a strong attendance of families this year. The support of the wing’s families over the past year has contributed to the success of the missions the members of the 172d have performed. We were able to not only provide a day filled with fun activities, but also to provide valuable information and resources of different organizations to our families. Military One Source, VFW, USAA, ESGR, Mississippi Military Family Relief fund and numerous other organizations provided trained representatives, exhibits, and education on the services they can provide military families. Our family program is based on making sure the families and service members of the wing are well educated and mission ready through family readiness. We were able to do something very special this year, through the Operation Military Kids program and the Family Readiness program, we were able to recognize the children of the 172d in a special ceremony, where the children received a OMK “Hero” pack and received the “Hero” medal from Col William Hill, Wing Commander,” Breland said.



Veterans of Foreign Wars State Commander, Willie Lindsey, second from left, presents a \$2,500 donation to Col. William Hill, 172nd Commander, to help the unit with Family Day expenses. Also at the presentation, from left are, Lt Col Tod Wall, Linda Butler, Aaron Honeysucker, Marianne Breland, Lt Col David Buck.

Photo By MSgt Andy Miller

Family Day



The annual 172nd Family Day, sponsored by the Family Readiness and Support Office, was held on Sunday Oct. 15. Activities included facepainting, train rides around the base, horseback rides, inflatable slides and obstacle course, arts and crafts and some serious clowning around.



Fun For All



Photos By MSgt Andy Miller



KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT!

Myth: Sexual assault is an impulsive, uncontrollable act of passion.

Fact: Rape is an act of violence, not of sexual desire. Most rapes are planned: a location is selected, enticement used, and the victim deliberately sought and coerced into sexual relations.

Myth: Strangers commit most sexual assaults.

Fact: Victims usually know their assailant. In nearly 70 percent of sexual assaults on women, the assailant was the boyfriend, marital partner, date, friend, family member or neighbor.

Myth: People who commit sexual assaults are mentally ill or sex-starved loners.

Fact: People who commit sexual assaults are neither mentally ill nor sexually starved. Sexual offenders are “ordinary” and “normal” individuals who sexually assault victims to assert power and control over them.

Myth: No person can be sexually assaulted against his or her will.

Fact: Rape is a crime of violence, not sexual passion. In many cases, some type of force is used, such as choking, beating, roughness, or use of a weapon. Often, the victim is threatened with death if he or she resists. Confronted with the fear of being beaten or killed, many victims do not attempt to fight an attacker. While a victim may not resist an attack due to socialization and fear of violence, this lack of resistance should not be equated with consent for the attack. Many mugging victims hand over their wallets willingly to maintain their safety, but they did not ask to be mugged.

Myth: Victims often provoke sexual assault by their actions, behaviors, or by the way they dress.

Fact: No one ever “asks” or deserves to be sexually assaulted. Offenders rationalize their crimes by claiming that victims “asked for it.” This notion wrongfully blames the victim for the crime, not the offender.

Victims of sexual assault report a wide range of dress and actions at the time of the assault. If a victim is sexually assaulted, it is not their fault.

Myth: Men cannot be raped.

Fact: Sexual assault, no matter the gender of the perpetrator or victim, is a form of violence where sex is used to demean and humiliate another person. Current statistics indicate that one in six men are sexually assaulted or abused in their lifetime. Typically, the perpetrator is a heterosexual male. Sexual assault of males is thought to be greatly underreported.

Myth: A woman owes a man sex if she lets him buy her dinner or pay for a movie or drinks.

Fact: No one owes sex as a payment to anyone else under any circumstance.

Myth: Only “bad girls” get sexually assaulted.

Fact: Sexual assault occurs in all segments of our society. Most rapists choose their targets without regard to physical appearance or lifestyle. Victims are of every type, race, and socio-economic class, young and old alike.

Myth: Most rapes are reported by women who “change their minds” afterwards or who want to “get even” with a man.

Fact: FBI statistics show that only 3% of rape calls are false reports. This is the same false-report rate that is usual for other kinds of felonies.

Myth: The best way to protect oneself from sexual assault is to avoid being alone at night in dark, deserted places such as alleys or parking lots.

Fact: Most sexual assaults occur in a private home and the largest percentage of these take place in the victim’s home. The idea that most sexual assaults fit the ‘stranger-in-a-dark-alley’ stereotype can lead to a false sense of security.

Myth: Sexual assault victims will not suffer any long-term effects unless they are physically harmed.

Fact: Sexual assault can have serious effects on the victim’s health and well-being. Individuals who have been sexually assaulted feel anger, fear and can become more cautious and less trusting.

Myth: Victims who do not fight back have not been raped.

Fact: You have been raped when you are forced to have sex against your will, whether you fight back or not.



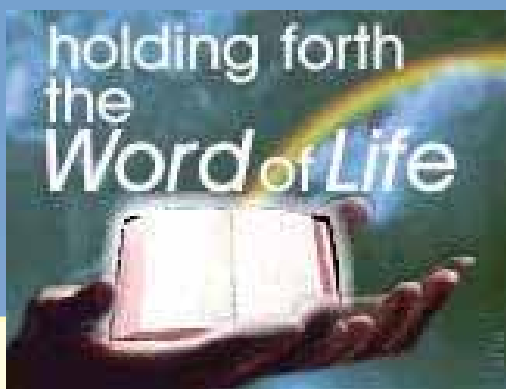
172 AIRLIFT WING
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE PROGRAM

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**INTEGRITY
SERVICE
EXCELLANCE**

**PREVENTION IS THE MISSION
RESPONSE AND COMPASSION FOR THE VICTIM IS OUR DUTY!**



Airlift Uplift

Giving Thanks

By Chaplain, Capt John McCay, III

It is that time again when we celebrate with family and friends around a table full of food and give thanks. Thanksgiving Day is quickly approaching and I wonder how truly thankful we are. How thankful are you? How do you show thankfulness?

I do not know about you, but I have so much to be thankful for I just do not know where to start. It would not surprise me if you felt the same way—we have so much to be thankful for! The words to a popular Christian song by Andraé Crouch go like this: To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things He has done. With his blood He has saved me; with His power He has raised me; to God be the glory for the things He has done.”

God has provided us with more than we deserve and we owe Him the glory. This year you may feel there is not too much to be thankful for. Maybe you lost a loved one or when through a difficult time, but if you search you will find something to be thankful for. God never promised us things would be easy and go our way. Instead we have to trust Him and have faith in the promises He has revealed through Christ, the Holy Spirit, and His Holy Word.

Will you give God the glory and sing songs of thanksgiving for all He has done for you? God is worthy and we should give Him thanks for the things He has done!